

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

- 1 1. A digital set-top box for minimizing subscriber-perceived digital video
2 channel tuning delay, comprising:
 - 3 a first decoder;
 - 4 a second decoder; and
 - 5 a look-ahead tuning logic in communication with said first decoder and said
6 second decoder, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic instructs said second
7 decoder to decode a television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic.
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- 1 2. The digital set-top box of claim 1, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic
2 comprises a channel prediction logic, wherein said channel prediction logic
3 compiles a list of television channels, and wherein said look-ahead tuning logic
4 selects said predicted television channel from said list of television channels.
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- 1 3. The digital set-top box of claim 2, wherein said list of television channels is
2 created based in part on a current channel decoded by said first decoder.
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- 1 4. The digital set-top box of claim 2, further comprising a memory in
2 communication with said look-ahead tuning logic, where said memory stores a
3 historical log of channels recently decoded by said first decoder.
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- 1 5. The digital set-top box of claim 4, wherein said list of television channels is
2 created based in part upon a said historical log of channels.
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- 1 6. The digital set-top box of claim 2, further comprising a weighting database,
2 wherein said weighting database orders said television channels to generate said
3 list of television channels.

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1 7. The digital set-top box of claim 1, further comprising a decoder manager,
2 wherein said decoder manager determines if said second decoder is available to
3 decode said television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic.

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1 8. The digital set-top box of claim 1, further comprising a prediction
2 evaluator, wherein said prediction evaluator determines if said television channel
3 predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic matches a subsequent subscriber
4 requested television channel.

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1 9. The digital set-top box of claim 1, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic
2 comprises a feedback loop.

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1 10. A method executed in digital set-top box having at least two decoders,
2 comprising:

3 receiving a request from a subscriber to view a first television channel;
4 decoding said first television channel using a first decoder;
5 predicting a next television channel to be requested by said subscriber; and
6 decoding said predicted next television channel using a second decoder.

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1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising determining if said predicted
2 next television channel matches a subsequent subscriber requested television
3 channel.

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1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television
2 channel is based in part upon the subscriber's most frequently watched television
3 channels.

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1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television
2 channel is based in part upon the identity of said first television channel.

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1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television
2 channel comprises compiling a list of candidate television channels, wherein said
3 next television channel is chosen from said list of candidate television channels.

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1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising organizing said list of
2 candidate television channels based upon weights generated by evaluating the
3 accuracy of past predictions of television channels to be selected by said
4 subscriber.

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1 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of determining the
2 determining the resources available for tuning to said predicted next television
3 channel.

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1 17. The method of claim 10, further comprising tracking said prediction to
2 determine the accuracy of said prediction.

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1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising using said accuracy of said
2 prediction to predict subsequent television channels to be requested by said
3 subscriber.

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1 19. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing the identity
2 of said predicted television channel in memory.

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1 20. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing a historical
2 log of television channels requested by said subscriber.

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1 21. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of instantaneously
2 presenting said predicted next television channel for viewing by a subscriber.